

I wish you success in getting your idea enacted and would be willing to help in any way that I can.

Sincerely,

RUDOLPH G. PENNER.

WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL
CENTER FOR SCHOLARS,
Washington, DC, July 7, 2006.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
Washington, DC.

DEAR FRANK: Thank you for sending along your excellent proposal to establish a national bipartisan commission on America's looming fiscal crisis. I agree that we must hastily address the very grave financial challenges before our nation. You have laid out a thoughtful and effective way forward. In particular, it is important to put everything on the table—entitlement spending, federal programs, and tax policy. Mandating congressional action would also ensure that a prospective commission does not issue a report that gathers dust on a shelf.

On another note, the Iraq Study Group continues to make excellent progress, and I once again thank you for your leadership and support of our efforts.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON.

MANATT JONES GLOBAL STRATEGIES,
Washington, DC, June 26, 2006.

Hon. FRANK R. WOLF,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WOLF: Thank you for your letter and for sending me a copy of your legislation, H.R. 5552. I can't speak highly enough in commending you for leading this much needed effort and for the comprehensiveness of your proposal.

As a former House Budget Committee Chairman who subsequently headed the American Stock Exchange among other business activities since leaving the Congress, I have been appalled and discouraged by the recklessness and disregard of our government's fiscal policy. These unconscious able deficits and mounting federal debt load financed primarily by foreigners are an economic time bomb waiting to explode. If I were managing a private company this irresponsibly, the shareholders should demand my resignation.

We hear much talk about our national security and energy security. But to put our economic security so much in the hands of foreign interests is gambling at its worst.

In addition to the economic dangers, this is also a moral issue in that our generation is saddling our children and grand-children with the responsibility for paying off our profligacy. That can only reduce the standard of living of future generations. How can we justify such immorality.

I am so proud that you are stepping forward to try to pass legislation with teeth to force both the Congress and the Executive Branch to make hard choices to get our fiscal house on a path to responsibility. I hope that you will make this a bi-partisan effort. I will be pleased to support you in every way I can and to urge my fellow Democrats to join you in this effort.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES R. JONES.

RECOGNIZING SAMUEL GILBERT
OAS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Samuel Gilbert Oas a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Samuel has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Samuel has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Samuel Gilbert Oas for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, due to a mechanical failure with my voting card, my vote in favor of H. Res. 921 was not recorded (rollcall vote No. 391).

I strongly support the state of Israel, and am in full support of its actions to defend itself against the attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah. Both of these terrorist organizations are comprised of terrorist thugs and must be rooted out in order for peace to be achieved in the region, and their use of civilians as shields is deplorable.

I am grateful that Israel has taken so many steps to wage a careful, targeted effort, focused on eliminating terrorist elements while also minimizing other damage.

I applaud the President for moving forward on the right track in demanding that Hezbollah be eliminated from Lebanon, and also hope this will be the opportunity for the Arab world to unite against terrorism. Iran and Syria should take notice—supporting terrorist organizations is not a proper activity of governments.

Mr. Speaker, I once again reiterate my strong support of H. Res. 921, and would have voted in favor if my voting card had registered successfully.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday July 24th, I was unavoidably detained due to family matters I had to attend to in Seattle, WA and was not present for rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted: "Yea" on rollcall 394, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under

which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps.

"Yea" on rollcall 395, to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

"Yea" on rollcall 396, to establish a grant program whereby moneys collected from violations of the corporate average fuel economy program are used to expand infrastructure necessary to increase the availability of alternative fuels.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND LEWIS
RANDOLPH

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Lewis Randolph who will celebrate 30 years as pastor of the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church on October 14th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Reverend Randolph was installed as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in 1976 as the church's fifteenth pastor. He quickly made an imprint upon the congregation by a twofold plan of renovating the physical structure of the church grounds and by evangelizing in the community.

Starting in 1979 and continuing over the next 30 years, Pastor Randolph renovated the sanctuary, improved the parking lots, added a new kitchen, dining facility, and improved the upper level of the church.

As a part of the church's covenant "to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality"; Reverend Randolph has organized and supported numerous auxiliaries and ministries. These include the Voices of Antioch Choir, the Usher Board and a Concerned Committee to help persons return to the church. He added a new Easter Sunday worship service, supports a ministry in Haiti, teaches a weekly Bible class, and distributes Bibles and baskets of food in the community.

Recognizing the need to encourage young people, he has made sure that Antioch Missionary Baptist Church has been well represented in the Young Peoples Department of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Incorporated over the past several years. Under his tutelage several pastors began their ministries with his guidance and direction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Reverend Lewis Randolph. The Flint community is a better place because of his leadership.

RECOGNIZING DREW KELLY FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Drew Kelly, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities